

cooperation. In the July 18, Joint Statement, President Bush had agreed that he could seek the agreement of the US Congress to adjust US Laws and Policies to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. The President has already approached the Congress. The House of Representatives had already approved legislation allowing a presidential waiver from certain sections of current US legislation that inhibited the civilian nuclear cooperation with India. Similar legislation has been adopted in the Senate. The two Bills will be reconciled and a single Bill resubmitted to the House and Senate for adoption.

India has a number of serious concerns on the provisions in the draft Senate and House of Representatives Bill. These were articulated by the Prime Minister in his statement in the Rajya Sabha on 17 August, 2006 and fully took into account the concerns raised by the political parties in Parliament. These concerns have been conveyed to the US side at various levels including at the highest level, to ensure that these are fully addressed. The Atomic Energy Commission has been fully briefed and has been discussing these developments. The Government of India is closely monitoring further developments.

Setting up four new sites for nuclear generation

103. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India propose to set up additional nuclear generation capacity plants of 6,000 to 10,000 mw on the four new sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a project is also proposed to be set up in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) the Government has constituted a Site Selection Committee (SSC) to locate suitable coastal sites for setting up nuclear power plants based on imports with a total power capacity to 6000 to 10000 MWe at each site.

(c) and (d) The Site Selection Committee is presently evaluating sites

offered by the State Governments of all coastal states including Orissa. After recommendation by the Site Selection Committee, the sites have to be approved by the Government and cleared by statutory agencies.

Nuclear power through private sector

104. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sought reforms in nuclear power sector through private sector participation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to enable private sector participation in nuclear power generation in the country has been under consideration of the Government. However, no final decision has been taken.

Selling of Uranium to India

105. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has agreed in principle to sell Uranium to India;

(b) if so, the details of the move;

(c) whether any request has been made to this extent by India to Australia;

(d) whether it is also true that Australia putting some conditions to sell Uranium to India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the conditions affect India's prospects of getting Uranium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Government has no information about any decision, in principle, by Australia to sell Uranium to India.